

CASE: 1139

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

13 December 1993

DURING THE 25TH JFA, A JOINT TEAM SURVEYED A SUSPECTED F-111 CRASH SITE AT GRID COORDINATES 48QXE7345716292. THE LOCATION OF THE CRASH SITE CORRESPONDS PRECISELY WITH REFNO 1139 LOCATION. THE RECOVERY OF AIRCREW SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING AT THE CRASH SITE INDICATES THAT THE CREW WAS IN THE AIRCRAFT AT IMPACT. JTF-FA FILES INDICATES NO OTHER CRASH SITES ARE LOCATED WITHIN 15 KILOMETERS OF GRID COORDINATES 48QXE7345716292. (REF 5)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 8 OCTOBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1140-0-01 (ACCNO 6361) Status: (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Name: CHOMYK, WILLIAM (NMN) Date Status assigned: 7 May 1968

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	B +
Grade	O2	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	#	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No	DATA	Height	70 in / 1.78 mtrs	Weapon No	K746767
Birth date	3 Apr 1943	Weight	141 lb / 63.9 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	NEW YORK	Religion	OTHER	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE  
UTM: 48QYD585055  
Lat/Long: 161905N / 1072511E  
Country: SOUTH VIETNAM  
Military Region: 1  
Mission Province: THUA THIEN-HUE  
(formerly): THUA THIEN  
Mission District: HUE CITY  
Mission Date: 22 Apr 1968  
Mission Category: 2  
Local Analysis: Near populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Apr 93  
Investigations: Apr 93  
Surveys: Apr 93  
Vessey Case: NO  
Case type: CRASH SITE  
Survivability: (4) Probably in the aircraft at the time of the crash

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 8778
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: J7915
Call Sign: GUNFIGHTER 11	1 Serial: 439973
Year: 66	2 Serial: 439975

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

# = Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.  
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.  
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 8 OCTOBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1140-0-02 (ACCNO 6362) Status: (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Name: RIGGINS, ROBERT PAUL Date Status assigned: 7 May 1968

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	O +
Grade	04	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BROWN	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No	DATA	Height	70 in / 1.78 mtrs	Weapon No	C510013
Birth date	19 Jan 1931	Weight	169 lb / 76.6 kg	Duty pos	ACFT CMDR
Home State	ILLINOIS	Religion	CATHOLIC	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE  
UTM: 48QYD585055  
Lat/Long: 161905N / 1072511E  
Country: SOUTH VIETNAM  
Military Region: 1  
Mission Province: THUA THIEN-HUE  
(formerly): THUA THIEN  
Mission District: HUE CITY  
Mission Date: 22 Apr 1968  
Mission Category: 2  
Local Analysis: Near populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Apr 93  
Investigations: Apr 93  
Surveys: Apr 93  
Vessey Case: NO  
Case type: CRASH SITE  
Survivability: (4) Probably in the aircraft at the time of the crash

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 8778
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: J7915
Call Sign: GUNFIGHTER 11	1 Serial: 439973
Year: 66	2 Serial: 439975

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CASE: 1140

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

2 August 1975

ON 22 APRIL 1968 MAJ ROBERT P. RIGGINS, AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, AND 1LT WILIAM (NMI) CHOMYK, PILOT, WERE ABOARD AN F-4D (#66-8778) AIRCRAFT THAT TOOK OFF FROM DA NANG AB, SOUTH VIETNAM AS LEAD IN A FLIGHT OF TWO AIRCRAFT ON A SCRAMBLE MISSION. THEIR CALL SIGN WAS GUNFIGHTER 11. THE TARGET WAS 17 MILES SOUTHWEST OF HUE. GUNFIGHTER 11 MADE HIS PASS ON THE TARGET WITH GUNFIGHTER 12 TRAILING BY 1/2 MILE. THE FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER (FAC) STATED THAT GUNFIGHTER 11 WAS TALKING WITH HIM, BUT STOPPED IN THE MIDDLE OF A SENTENCE, AT WHICH TIME THE FAC SAW GUNFIGHTER 11 PERFORM WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS AN ERRATIC MANEUVER.

LEAD INCREASED BANK UP TO 80 DEGREES AND RECOVERED TO WINGS LEVEL, BUT THE PULL-OUT WAS TOO LOW TO MAKE A RECOVERY. THE AIRCRAFT IMPACTED A MOUNTAIN IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES YD 585 055. THIS MANEUVER COULD HAVE BEEN A RESULT OF GUNFIGHTER 11 HAVING BEEN HIT BY SMALL ARMS OR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. ANALYSIS OF PHOTOGRAPHS CONFIRMS DETONATION OF MUNITIONS THAT WERE ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT AT IMPACT, WHICH CAUSED TOTAL DISINTEGRATION OF THE AIRCRAFT. NO PARACHUTES WERE OBSERVED NOR BEEPERS HEARD. GROUND RECOVERY TEAMS WERE UNABLE TO PHYSICALLY INSPECT THE SITE DUE TO ENEMY FORCES IN THE AREA. (REF 1, 2, 3 & 4)

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. MAJ RIGGINS AND LT CHOMYK ARE CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== REFERENCES ===

2 August 1975

REFERENCES: <1> MSG, 366TH TFW, DA NANG AB, RVN, 220655Z APR 68. <2> MSG, 366TH TFW, DA NANG AB, RVN, 221130Z APR 68. <3> MSG, 366TH TFW, DA NANG AB, RVN 221200Z APR 68. <4> MSG, 366TH TFW, DA NANG AB, RVN 221400Z 68. <5> 160922Z APR 93, CDR JTF-FA/J2/HONOLULU HI. <6> 010329Z JUN 93 CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

19 April 1993

CASE NARRATIVE FOR 1140 WAS PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE FOLLOWING THE 5-6 APR 93 POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

CASE: 1140

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

2 August 1975

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: WILLIAM CHOMYK 1140-0-01, AND ROBERT P. RIGGINS 1140-0-02.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

17 April 1975

COORDINATES CHANGED FROM YD578057 TO YD585055 BASED ON MESSAGE, 366 TFW DNG AB RVN, DTG 220655Z APR 68, SUBJ: FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT COMBAT LOSS.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

4 October 1993

ON 11 MAY 93, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM INVESTIGATION TEAM TRAVELED TO HONG CHAU HAMLET, HONG TIEN VILLAGE, HUONG DIEN DISTRICT, THUA THIEN-HUE PROVINCE TO CONDUCT A SITE SURVEY OF THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF CASE 1140. THERE WERE NO WITNESSES FOR THIS CASE. AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, THE AREA WAS UNINHABITED. SINCE THE WAR, SEVERAL FAMILIES HAVE ESTABLISHED RESIDENCE IN THE AREA. A LOCAL RESIDENT ACTED AS THE TEAM'S GUIDE. HE POINTED OUT UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE IN THE AREA WHICH WAS MARKED AND SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED TO THE VIETNAMESE TEAM LEADER. THE ONLY SIGNS OF MATERIAL EVIDENCE DISCOVERED WAS UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE. (REF 6)

=== ARCHIVAL RESEARCH INFORMATION ===

19 May 1993

TWO PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE CENTRAL ARMY MUSEUM CORRELATE TO REFNO 1140: A PHOTO OF UNIDENTIFIABLE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE WITH VIETNAMESE ANNOTATIONS (ROLL 32/Frames 19-20). CORRELATION IS BASED ON ANNOTATIONS OF AIRCRAFT TYPE, INCIDENT DATE, GENERAL LOCATION, NAME AND RANK OF REFNO 1140. (REF 5)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 16 AUGUST 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1141	(ACCNO 1167)	Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: VINSON, BOBBY GENE		Date Status assigned: 12 Sep 1977
Nationality AMERICAN	Race CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit DATA
Service AIR FORCE	Sex MALE	Blood type A +
Grade 05	Hair BROWN	Complexion RUDDY
SSAN DATA	Eyes BROWN	Weapon .38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No DATA	Height 68 in /1.73 mtrs	Weapon No K585776
Birth date DATA	Weight 160 lb / 72.5 kg	Duty pos PILOT
Home State TEXAS	Religion OTHER	PW Camp \$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

	INCIDENT LOCATION (0)	LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)
Site Type:	CRASH SITE	
UTM:	48QXE587465	48QXE565480
Lat/Long:	173603N / 1062945E	173653N / 1062831E
Country:	NORTH VIETNAM	
Military Region:	4	
Mission Province:	QUANG BINH	
(formerly):		
Mission District:	BO TRACH	
Mission Date:	24 Apr 1968	
Mission Category:	3	
Local Analysis:	None.	Populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Aug 87, Nov 86  
Investigations: Apr 90, Apr 92  
Surveys: Apr 90, Apr 92, Jun 92  
Excavations: Jun 92, Jun 93  
Additional Information Obtained: Jun 92  
Vessey Case: NO  
Case type: DISCREPANCY  
Survivability: (3) Unknown

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 7541
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: J7915
Call Sign: GUNFIGHTER 04	1 Serial: 439124
Year: 66	2 Serial: 439127

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

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